



The Canal Zone Philatelist



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The 1918-1921 Panama and Canal Zone *Carta-Paquete* or Registration Envelopes

by David Zemer

In the previous 2012 article [1,2] there were many unanswered questions about the ordering, manufacturing, and shipping of the registration envelopes and my feeling was that they would remain unanswered. However, in 2014, I acquired the correspondence between the American Bank Note Company and its agent in Panama, and with it many of the gaps from four years ago are now filled in.

Most importantly, the correspondence shows that there were three separate issues (printings) not two, and that, contrary to statements in earlier publications, the ABNCo did not win the order for the first issue nor did it manufacture or print any registration envelopes.

A shipping date for the first order was not discovered nor do we know for sure how many envelopes were printed. However, we now have correct shipping dates as well as the amount of envelopes printed for the second and third issues. This new information along with a large number of used covers has proved invaluable in differentiating the first issue envelopes, some of which were surcharged for the Canal Zone, from the third issue that were only used by Panama.

Provisional Classification System to Replace Higgins & Gage

To keep track of the three Registration Envelope issues, a new classification system is under development by COPAPHIL, the Colombia/Panama Philatelic Study Group. Following the example of the UPSS *Canal Zone Postal Stationery* handbook,

Mail Sale Announcement

The 40th Mail Sale will be conducted in 2017 by the Metro Chapter of the CZSG. Although the final schedule is currently being developed, we anticipate accepting material in May 2017; catalog distribution in September/October 2017 with the third quarter *CZP*; and sale closing in November 2017.

Only CZSG members, including family of deceased members, are permitted to submit material. Members who desire to submit material should give careful consideration to its saleability, as common, low-value, or damaged items simply do not sell. Additional details will be published in the first quarter, 2017 *CZP*.

edited by Irwin Gibbs, RE will signify Registered Envelopes. The five different registered envelopes in this study are identified as RE1 – RE5. Major errors or major varieties are given a small letter “a,b,c” following the number RE1-RE5. Less important print varieties are identified with the letter “v” and then a digit. Examples of rework are identified with the letter “r” and then a digit.

RE5a for example: “5” identifies the fifth distinct envelope and “a” the first major error for the RE5 envelope.

RE1v2: “1” is the first distinct registered envelope with print variety number “2.”

The universal standard for cataloguing Panama Registration Envelopes, published by Higgins & Gage, is both incorrect and incomplete and hopefully will be replaced by the new registration envelope system.

Correspondence dates are listed in bold type so that anyone who wishes to study these envelopes will easily be able to find copies of the original documents.

FIRST ISSUE – Ordered Through Stark & Co. not the ABNCo

Juan Ehrman is often referred to when documenting the early Panama/Canal Zone ABNCo stamps. He was the

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Canal Zone Study Group

Commonly used abbreviations

ABNCo = American Bank Note Company

BEP = Bureau of Engraving & Printing

cds = circular date stamp

Check List = CZSG Check list of Canal Zone Stamps and Postal Stationery (rev. 2015, Richard Spielberg, Ed.)

CZ Stamps = *Canal Zone Stamps*, by Gilbert N. Plass, Geoffrey Brewster, and Richard H. Salz, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1986

CZP = *The Canal Zone Philatelist*

Entwistle = *The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone, 2nd Edition*, by Lawson P. Entwistle, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1992; specific cancels are indicated Entw. ####.

French = *Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on US Bureau-Printed Postage Stamps*, by Loran C. French, Bureau Issues Association, 1979

NPM = National Postal Museum of the Smithsonian Institution

Scott = *Scott Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps & Covers*, current edition

Tatelman = *Canal Zone Postage Stamps*, by E.I.P. Tatelman, Canal Zone Postal Service, Mt. Hope, CZ, 1961

Journal citations are *Journal Name*, Volume No., Pages, Year.
Anything without a byline is written by the Editor.

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Registration Envelopes

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ABNCo agent in Panama responsible for winning most of the government printing business. He often alerted the ABNCo to upcoming orders and for several decades he was responsible for obtaining the ABNCo contracts for many of the postage stamps, postal stationery, revenue stamps, and a large amount of non-postal stationery, letterhead, business cards, etc., in short, almost anything that needed high-quality printing for the government of Panama. He also sent the ABNCo reports on competitors and their attempts to win printing contracts.

November 23, 1916 – Ehrman wrote to the Foreign Division of the ABNCo thanking them for the coded cable warning him that Mr. Stark from Stark & Co., the general purchasing agent for Panama based in New York City, was in Panama and that Ehrman should "...do all you can to prevent our orders being handled by him ..." Ehrman replied that "... immediately I saw Mr. Aurelio Guardia, Secretary of Hacienda. He is not in favor of the contract with Stark & Co. and in his message to the Congress he recommends not to renew it."

In addition, Ehrman wrote, "The Government of Panama will order Registered Linen Stamped Envelopes, two sizes, like the British Post Office is using."

December 7, 1916 – Ehrman must have been fairly certain that he would get the Registered Envelope contract for ABNCo as he wrote: "The Panama Government will shortly send you an order for 500,000 Registered Stamped Envelopes size 9 and 500,000 Registered Stamped Envelopes size 6 cloth lined. A part of the above will be for the Canal Zone Post Office. The models will be sent to you in due course."

December 20, 1916 – ABNCo wrote their agent telling him that they had not yet received an order for 1,000,000 cloth-lined envelopes and that "... due to the condition of the paper market cloth-lined paper is very expensive."

December 23, 1916 – Panama's *Gaceta Oficial* Decree # 53 paved the way for the tamper-proof register envelopes as it forbade the inclusion of valuable objects like gold, jewelry, coins, precious stones, etc., within regular or registered mail. The decree made it clear that such inclusion would be subject to forfeiture of the valuables unless they were sent by a system of *Carta-Paquete* or "Letter-Packages."

The decree required the letter-package to have a cover made of strong or cloth-lined paper and lacquered in such a way that no one would be able to open it without leaving evidence that the security of the letter had been violated. The decree further stated that all shipments of this nature would be marked *Carta-Paquete* in a visible place.

January 3, 1917 – The ABNCo received an official letter, No. 10-C, from Panama. The *Secretaria de Hacienda y Tesoro* confirmed that they had ordered 200,000 envelopes for the service of *Recomendados* and *Carta-Paquete* through their agent Ehrman & Co.

No other relevant documents, including the referenced order for 200,000 envelopes, were found in the 1917 correspondence and quite unusually, there is no discussion of these envelopes or this order. Later correspondence makes it clear that Stark & Co. handled the order.

No other documentation for the envelopes ordered for Panama from Stark & Co. has been uncovered.

Gibbs wrote that the Panama Canal Press at Mount Hope,

Canal Zone, had received 9000 small (size 6) and 1000 large (size 10) registry envelopes in August 1918 from Panama. A few months later a second order of 16,000 small and 9,000 large registry envelopes arrived from Panama. These envelopes were overprinted for use in the Canal Zone and uprated from 5 cents, the registry fee in Panama, to the registry fee in the Canal Zone of 10 cents. [3]

September 4, 1918 – *Gaceta Oficial* published Decree # 140 which authorized the usage of inviolable, tamper-proof envelopes for registration and letter-packages based on Decree # 53. The specifications for these envelopes are given and the Decree required that incoming mail that contained money must also be in similar tamper-proof envelopes.

No announcement of a first day of usage was found but the earliest reported postmark on the Panama small envelope is October 24, 1918. The earliest reported postmark on the small envelope overprinted for the Canal Zone is October 25, 1918.

The earliest documented postmark on the Panama large envelope is December 12, 1918.

November 1918 – J.P. Coveleski sent *Mekeel's Weekly* one short and one long registration envelope each of which was overprinted *CANAL ZONE*. He also stated that 15,000 of each size were issued. Besides the addition of the *CANAL ZONE* overprint he wrote that the rating was doubled from 5 cents to 10 cents to comply with Canal Zone registration rates. This appears to have been the first time that these registration covers had been mentioned in the philatelic press. [4]

RE1: First Issue – Small Registered Envelopes with Constant Varieties

Constant print varieties found on RE1, the small First Issue envelopes, are assigned a catalogue number beginning with “v.” The Panama envelopes surcharged for the Canal Zone often have these varieties, and examples with this surcharge are shown when possible.

The RE1v1 variety has a gap under the letter n in *Recomendada* (Fig. 1).

Example of RE1v1 on Surcharged Small Registered Envelope – CANAL ZONE Surcharge

Three varieties that appear together have been assigned 3 separate numbers, RE v 2,3,4 as well as a common number, REv5 in case it turns out that they are always together (Fig. 2).

RE2: First Issue – Large Registered Envelope with Constant Varieties

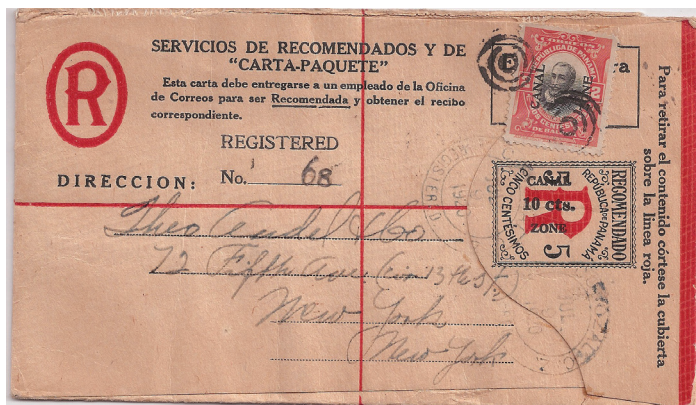


Fig. 1 RE1v1 - Gap under n in Recomendada

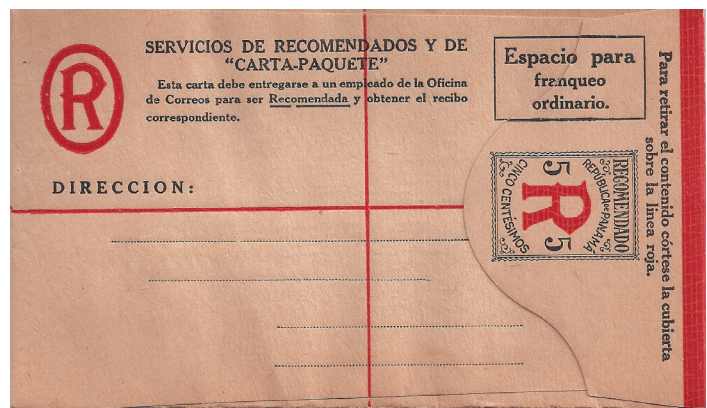


Fig. 2 Print varieties RE1v2 (gap under letter o in Recomendada, RE1v3 (broken lower right N in RECOMENDADOS), RE1v4 (broken upper left corner 1st E in PAQUETE). RE1v5 is defined as all three varieties on one envelope as shown here

Sometimes the word *Espacio*, in the box where the stamp is applied, has a mark over the letter s and is classified as RE2v1. In addition, gap varieties exist on the frame or box surrounding the text. For the moment one number, RE2v2, is assigned to any first issue large envelope with a frame gap but there are examples of these gaps appearing in different locations on the box so additional numbers might be used in the future to differentiate among them.

These two varieties are difficult to catalogue because they are hidden by a stamp on most used envelopes. These varieties were first noticed on Panama envelopes and later on the four envelopes overprinted *CANAL ZONE* in the Gibbs' auction catalogue, Lots 1268-1271 (Fig. 3).

Linen Mesh is the Key to Identifying Issues One and Three

The key to differentiating the First from the Third Issue is the mesh lining the insides of the envelopes. Both sizes of envelopes of the First Issue have a coarse, irregular mesh (Fig. 4). In the section of this article on the Third Issue a scan of its fine mesh is shown.

One mark that was first considered to be a variety is inside of the indicium red R. However all of the first series large envelopes seen so far have this characteristic but none of the first series small envelopes seen has it. Often the mesh can be seen through the R, Fig. 5, and the red security stripe, *linea roja*, at the top of the envelope, making it possible to distinguish between the first and third issues without looking at the mesh on the inside of the envelope.

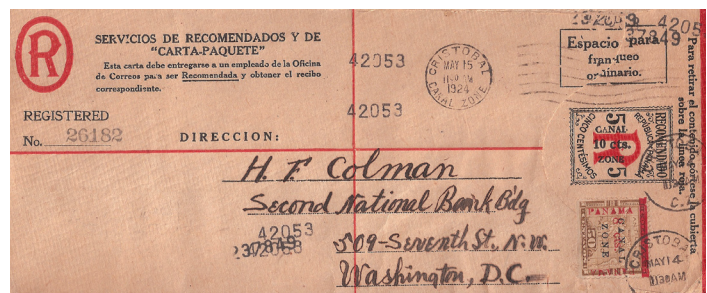


Fig. 3 RE2 - Large envelope with CANAL ZONE surcharge. With print variety RE2v1, mark over s in Espacio and RE2v2, gap(s) in frame

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Registration Envelopes

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Fig. 4 RE1 & RE2 coarse irregular mesh on inside of flap of the First Issue envelopes



Fig. 5 Large R showing outline of coarse mesh. Red mark inside of indicium R is not a variety, and is found on all large First Issue, RE2, envelopes

SECOND ISSUE: ABNCo Order 6250 – Canal Zone 10c Registry Envelopes

October 24, 1918 – In an internal memo from the ABNCo Foreign Department to Mr. Woglom in the Purchasing Department, Mr. Woglom was asked to give a cost estimate for 50,000 of each of two sizes of linen-lined envelopes. Two examples of linen-lined envelopes were included with the remarks that they were made by an outside house but that Panama was not satisfied with them and wanted something better – the two envelope examples were not in the correspondence. Woglom was told that the envelope company Jones [5] should be contacted to see what they would charge to make up the envelopes after ABNCo printed them.

December 7, 1919 – Ehrman alerted the ABNCo that Panama would soon send them an order for Canal Zone postage stamps, stamped envelopes, postal cards, and 25,000 small and 10,000 large “Register Envelopes” with a registry fee of 5c. He also noted “These Register Envelopes were sent by Stark & Co in 1917 and were manufactured by the Great Eastern Paper Co., 379 Broadway, New York.”

December 10, 1919 – In a letter Ehrman confirmed the order of December 7 and corrected the registry fee to 10c, the rate in the Canal Zone. Panama had not been satisfied with the envelopes from Stark & Co. and Ehrman asked that a better quality of glue be used to prevent the envelopes becoming “... unglued by themselves.” He also warned that the ABNCo must attend to the whole order to prevent the Panama Government ordering directly from another paper company. The ABNCo gave the registry envelope foreign order number 6250. Included with the letter was the original order in Spanish on the letterhead of the *Secretaria de Hacienda y Tesoro* and signed by Charles L. Stockelberg, *Jefe de Materiales y Compras*.

January 19, 1920 – In an internal memo ABNCo priced

the order per 1,000 including its 20% margin and the 5% commission for Ehrman (Fig. 6).

The same day the Foreign Sales Department placed an internal order for these Canal Zone envelopes (Fig. 7).

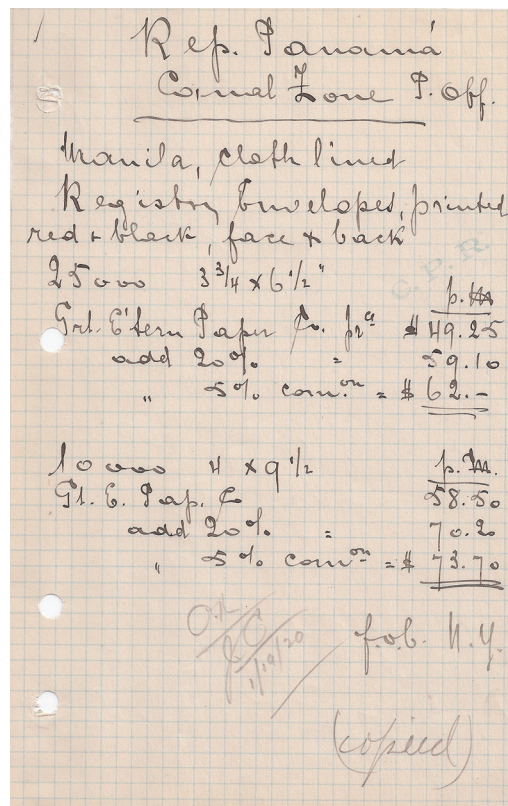


Fig. 6 Estimate of price to Panama. Ordered through the Great Eastern Paper Co.: small envelopes \$62/1000, large envelopes \$73.70/1000

FOREIGN SALES DEPARTMENT

Date January 19, 1920.

AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO.

Please furnish REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
Canal Zone Post Office.

25,000 Registry Envelopes - 5 3/4 x 6 1/2" open end, Manila, cloth lined, printed in black and red on face and back, as per sample but stamp value to be Diez Centésimos (10) Price \$1550

10,000 Registry Envelopes - 4 x 9 1/2" open end, Manila, cloth lined, printed in black and red on face and back as per sample but stamp value to be Diez Centésimos (10) Price \$737

Total \$2287.
Including 5% Com. to Ehrman.

This order for record only. All work to be done by The Great Eastern Paper Co. as per their quotation 1/15/20.

PAYMENT ON RECEIPT OF DOCUMENTS.

Shipping Instructions: Mark and ship to:-
Charles L. Stockelberg
Jefe de Materiales y Compras
para la Republica de Panama,
Panama, Panama

ORDER DEPT.
JAN 20 1920
J. B. P.
MANAGER OF FOREIGN SALES

Fig. 7 January 19, 1920: The order F6250 with the Great Eastern Paper Co. Total price: \$2287



Fig. 8 RE3 – Small obliterated envelope



Fig. 8a RE3v1, last letters "d" and "a" connected

July 30, 1920 – ABNCo sent Ehrman a coded telegraph stating that the "... registered envelopes were going forward 2 to 3 weeks."

July 30, 1920 – ABNCo wrote Ehrman that they were having difficulties obtaining paper and they were at the mercy of the paper manufacturers. In addition, there was a great deal of freight congestion due to strikes. They still expected to have the registered envelopes in 2 to 3 weeks but the manufacturer had not yet delivered them.

October 22, 1920 – ABNCo wrote Ehrman apologizing for the late delivery of the registry envelopes ordered last December but hoped to have them packed for shipment in a few days.

November 4, 1920 – ABNCo wrote Stockelberg that 25,000 small registry envelopes packed 12,500 to the case

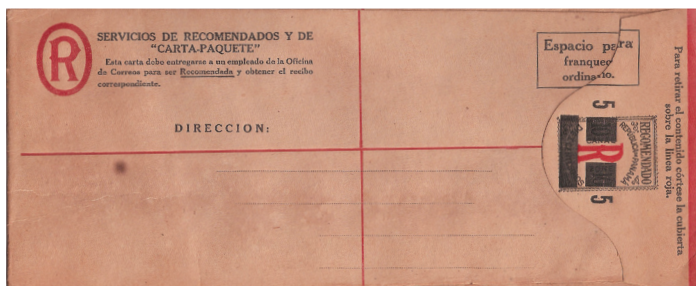


Fig. 9 RE4 - Large obliterated envelope

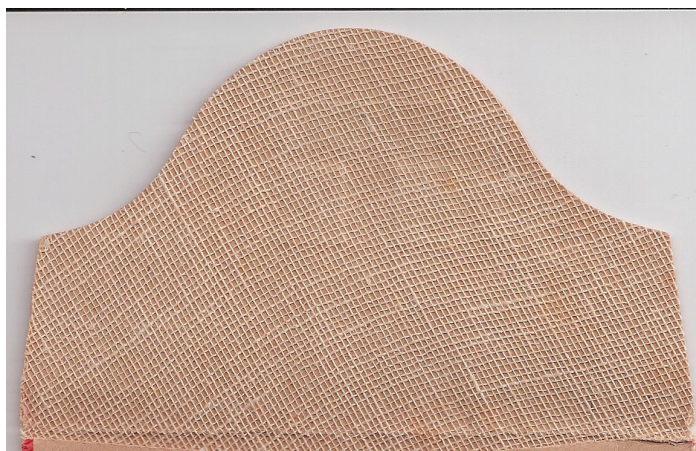


Fig. 10 Smaller, symmetrical mesh not laid out parallel to the sides of the envelope. Used in both the small and large Second Issue envelopes

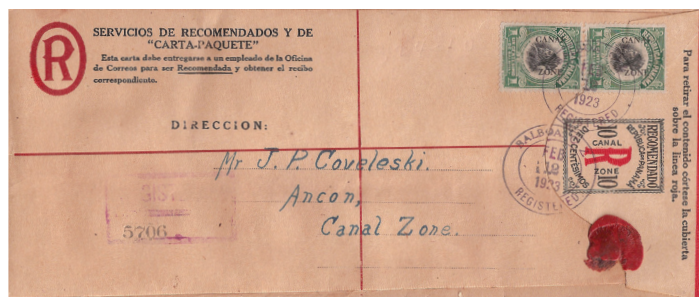


Fig. 11 RE4a – February 12, 1923. Large envelope clearly showing the Canal Zone markings otherwise obliterated. Four such envelopes recorded only one used

and 10,000 large registry envelopes packed 5,000 to the case would be sailing November 6 on the SS *Advance*. This order contained the Second Issue, Foreign Order number 6250, with CANAL ZONE overprints and 10c registry fee. The bill was for \$2319.12. Panama sent ABNCo a check for this amount December 27.

The Canal Zone later decided that these registry envelopes did not hinder pilferage and returned all of the envelopes to Panama. In order to use these envelopes, an agency in Panama obliterated "CANAL ZONE, *Diez Centestimos*, 10" (Fig. 8, 9). One small constant print variety has been catalogued in RE3, the smaller envelope: the last "d" and "a" in *Recomendada* are joined with a small spot. Of the 24 RE3 covers in our census, 14 show this variety (Fig. 8a).

The linen mesh in these envelopes was much tighter than in the first and those examined have the mesh at an angle to the sides (Fig. 10).

Second Issue Registered Envelopes With Obliterated Surcharge

Coveleski wrote in a note found in a used unobliterated envelope that so far as he knew only five envelopes were known without the surcharge, and "... only one envelope known used." Including the two in the Gibbs auction, three unused envelopes are recorded (Fig. 11).

THIRD ISSUE: ABNCo Order 6556/6586 – 5c Panama Registry Envelopes

August 8, 1920 – Two handwritten memos have cost estimates for 50,000 5c lined registered 3 ¾ x 6 ½ inch envelopes to be made by the US Envelope Co. The price estimate is \$2640 with a delivery in four months.

September 24, 1920 – ABNCo received a letter from Ehrman with Order No. 10 from Panama for 50,000 small registered envelopes, Balboa 0.05, Size 3 ¾ x 6 ½ inches. The ABNCo assigned it order number 6556 and noted that it is similar to F 6250 (the CANAL ZONE envelopes, RE3) but with a registry fee of 5c instead of 10c. ABNCo first wrote that it is to be "... supplied by the Great Eastern Paper Co." but struck that company's name out and wrote "... by the US Envelope Co." This is the first indication that the US Envelope Co. had been responsible for the manufacturing and printing of all three issues of registry envelopes.

November 5, 1920 – Internal order 6586 from the Foreign Sales Department specifies 50,000 Registry envelopes of 5 Centesimos, Size 3 ¾ x 6 ½ inch open end, manila cloth-lined, type printed in black and red on front and back as sample;

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Registration Envelopes

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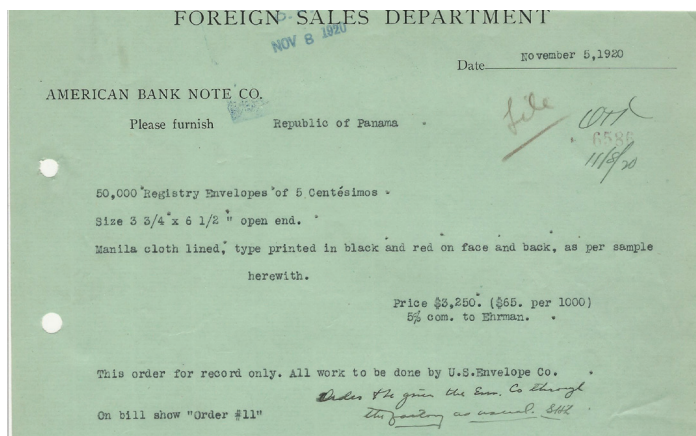


Fig. 12 November 5, 1920 - ABNCo internal order for 50,000 small registry envelopes

price \$3,250 (\$65 per 1000), 5% commission to Ehrman; work to be done by the US Envelope Co. No reason was found for the new order number, 6586, but we suspect that it was because the first internal order number, 6556, was for the cancelled Great Eastern Paper Co. order (Fig. 12).

January 5, 1921 – ABNCo wrote Ehrman giving an estimated shipping date for the registration envelopes as March 20.

May 11, 1921 – ABNCo sent Stockelberg an invoice for \$3,250.00, for Order F6586, 50,000 muslin cloth-lined 5 Centesimos Registry Envelopes. The shipment was in 10 tin and wood cases with a net weight of 1400 pounds, and would sail on SS *Alliance* May 13 (Fig. 13). On May 16, Chubb & Sons certified that they were insuring this May 13 order for \$3,288.

The typical sailing time between New York and Panama was seven days giving an estimated date of arrival in Colon, Panama for the Third Issue as May 20. Panama must have been running out of the small envelopes as the last recorded postmark on a First Issue small envelope is June 1921. The earliest recorded postmark on a Third Issue registration cover is a few months later, September 1, 1921. The latest recorded postmark is July 12, 1926.

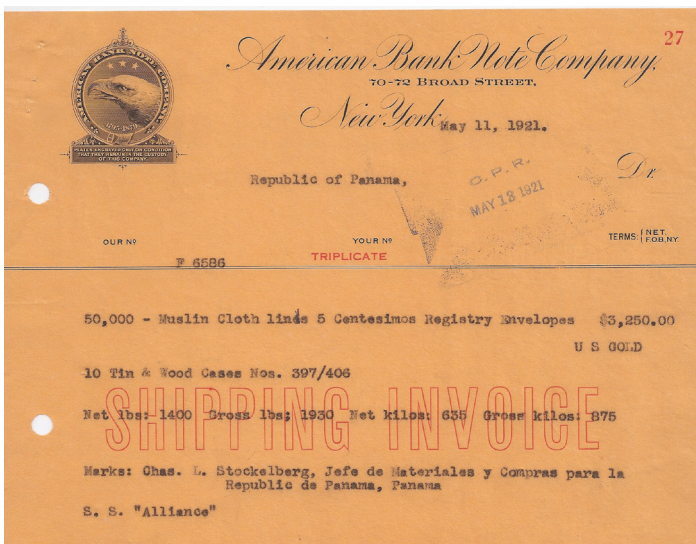


Fig. 13 May 11, 1921 invoice for \$3,250 to Panama for 50,000 small registry envelopes



Fig. 14 RE5 - Third Issue

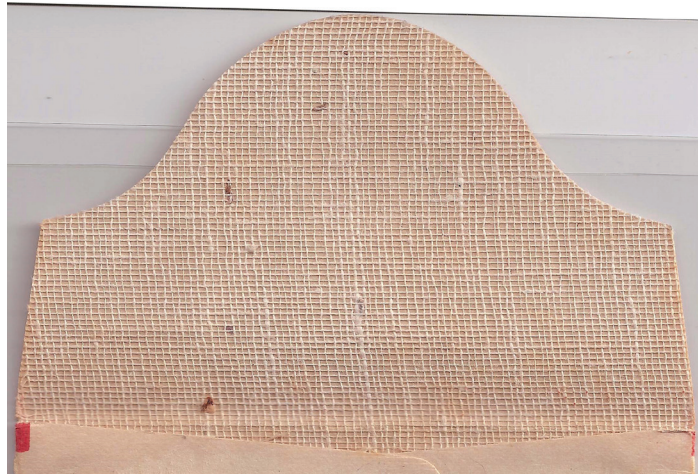


Fig. 15 RE5 – Small, tight symmetrical mesh. Threads nearly parallel to envelope sides

On the outside, RE5, the Third Issue envelope (Fig. 14), appears to be identical to RE1, the small First Issue envelope. However, the red vertical and horizontal registration lines can vary in thickness between 0.8 and 1.3 mm. The small, symmetric mesh on the inside is the definitive distinguishing difference between the two envelopes (Fig. 15).

RE3 - Third Issue Registered Envelopes with Constant Varieties

One Third Issue envelope has been discovered with the black instructions missing on the front. Higgins & Gage recognize this unique error as C1b (Fig. 16).

Quite surprisingly the same indicium with a mark inside



Fig. 16 RE5a – Missing black instructions on the front. One documented example. H&G C1b



Fig. 17
RE5b – Red mark inside R in
Indicium identical to that on all
large envelopes of type RE2.
One documented example



Fig. 18
RE5r1: S in CENTESIMOS
protrudes into frame and
rework below it.
RE5r2: R in REPÚBLICA
protrudes into frame

of the R found on every large envelope of the first issue has been found on one small envelope and classified as RE5b (Fig. 17).

Indicia and type showing rework have been documented. In order to easily identify “rework” a lower case r is introduced into the catalogue system. At first it was thought that the indicia with rework were scarce but in about 20% of the census S of *CENTESIMOS* protrudes into the frame and the ornamentation below that S has been repaired. Envelopes with these varieties are classified as RE5r1. The R of *REPÚBLICA* also protrudes into the frame, and is classified as RE5r2 (Fig. 18).

The letters *spo* were sometimes broken in the First Issue large covers, and this needs more research but this is a constant variety in the Third Issue where *spo* had been replaced or repaired. RE5r3 designates the broken letters and RE5r4 the repaired letters (Fig. 19a, b).

Discussion of Errors, Reuse of Indicia, Broken Type, and Rework

Manufacturing of the envelopes was complicated. Four different plates had to press onto each envelope with the last two pressings onto the front of the completed envelope. No varieties have been found on the vertical print on the envelope back and flap. Probably due to the need to press the two horizontal plates on the envelope with folded layers, type was



Fig. 19a RE5r3 sp in correspondiente damaged.



Fig. 19b RE5r4 Rework on spo in correspondiente.

easily broken. Broken type and rework have been assigned a catalogue number when several have been found.

It was a surprise to find that the red R in the indicia of the large covers of the First Issue was used on a small cover of the Third Issue. Only one example is recorded but there could be more.

These three Panama issues have one known major error, RE5a, the envelope without the black instructions on the front shown in Figure 16.

Rework of type and the indicia are given catalogue numbers. Canal Zone surcharges and one error with double horizontal print on a small envelope with a Canal Zone surcharge have been well documented by Plass and Gibbs of the Canal Zone Study Group and by the United Postal Stationery Society and therefore not repeated here.

Estimate of Number of Small Envelopes in the First Issue

There is no record of the Canal Zone post office destroying unused registration envelopes from the 1918 First Issue and they were used from late 1918 until 1924. A total of 25,000 small envelopes and 10,000 large envelopes were surcharged CANAL ZONE.

No reliable source has been found giving the amount that Panama received from Stark & Co. in the First Issue shipment. However, a rough estimate can be made.

In 1921 the Canal Zone returned 25,000 small and 10,000 large second issue envelopes to Panama. These had *CANAL ZONE* obliterated but were not put into circulation until 1924 because Panama had received the third issue of 50,000 small envelopes in 1921. With a total of 75,000 small envelopes available it took Panama five years to use them yielding an average usage of 15,000/year.

The First Issue stock was depleted by mid-1921. This gives an estimate of 37,500 small First Issue envelopes (2.5 years x 15,000/year) used by Panama.

Number of Large Envelopes in the First Issue

Usage of RE2, the large First Issue envelopes, starts in late 1918 and finishes in mid-1925. The number of these used large envelopes found is fewer than the small envelopes so an estimate would be between 25,000 and 50,000 originally delivered to Panama. The first reported postmark on RE4, the Second Issue large obliterated envelope, is July 1925 leading to the hypothesis that Panama issued these large Second Issue obliterated envelopes after all of those from the First Issue had been sold. Only three used large obliterated envelopes from the Second Issue have been documented suggesting that Panama quit selling these in 1926.

Census and Prices

A census for the Second Issue obliterated envelopes began in 2012 and has been expanded to all three issues. The Gibbs' sale prices realized for the Second Issue with estimates for the other issues have been added to the table (Table 1).

If you have not yet contributed and have any of these covers please send a 300 dpi scan of both sides to SOSA HILL@HOTMAIL.COM. As shown in the census the population of these covers that were available for research is extremely low and there could well be additional major as well as minor varieties.

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Registration Envelopes

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Contributors – The following persons have helped make this research possible by sharing scans: Melvin Bick, Federico Brid, George Campbell, Mike Demski, Wayne Menuz, and Brad Wilde. Other sources used include the Gibbs, Leeds, and Plass auction catalogues, the Sinfield *Panama Stationery Exhibit* at NY2016, the CZSG Mail Sale Catalogues, as well as other auction catalogues and online websites including eBay.

Acknowledgements – Federico Brid's suggestions as always have proved to be extremely valuable. Ruthann Bates has proofread and improved the article as well as corrected the grammar making it more reader-friendly than the original text.

End Notes:

- [1] Zemer, David, "The 1918 Series of Panama and Canal Carta-Paquete or Registration Envelopes," *COPACARTA*, Volume 30, Number 2, December 2012, p. 5-14
- [2] Zemer, David, "The 1918 Series of Panama and Canal Carta-Paquete or Registration Envelopes," *CZP*, Vol. 48, No.4, Whole No. 185, December 2012, p. 40-43.
- [3] Gibbs, Irwin J., "Canal Zone 1918 Registration Envelopes," *CZP*, Vol. 40, No. 3, Whole No. 152, September 2004, pp. 21, 25 – 28.
- [4] *Meekel's Weekly Stamp News*, Nov. 30, 1918. pp. 365,366.
- [5] From correspondence with Ross Towle: "Berlin & Jones" had been manufacturing envelopes since 1847 and its predecessor since 1843.

Table 1 Panama Registered Envelope Census and Prices

Panama Registered Envelope	Higgins & Gage #, Issue date	Issue # / Year Printed	Recorded Number of Envelopes Unused	Recorded Number of Envelopes Used	Earliest Reported Postmark	Latest Reported Postmark	Prices Recorded: Unused Envelopes	Prices Recorded: Used Envelopes
RE1 – Small 165mm x 95 mm	C1, 1922	1/ 1918	24 (CZ 9)*	47 (CZ 10)*	10/24/1918	04/06/1921	\$ 35**	\$ 50
RE2 – Large 240 mm x 125 mm	C1a, 1922	1/ 1918	24 (CZ 5)*	43 (CZ 5)*	12/21/1918	05/17/1925	\$ 60**	\$ 75
RE3 – Small Obliterated CANAL ZONE 165mm x 95 mm	C2, 1924	2/ 1920	10	24	02/20/1924	05/26/1926	\$ 315 G \$ 935 P	\$ 260 - \$ 350 G
RE4 – Large Obliterated CANAL ZONE 240 mm x 125 mm	C2a, 1924	2/ 1920	4	3	08/15/1925	03/06/1926	\$ 1600 G	\$ 800 - \$ 980 G
RE4a – Large Un-Obliterated CANAL ZONE 240 mm x 125 mm	----	2/ 1920	3	1	02/12/1923	----	\$ 2650G	\$ 2760G \$ 5775P
RE5 – Small 165mm x 95 mm	C1,1922	3/ 1921	2	26	09/01/1921	07/12/1926	---	\$ 50
RE5a Black instructions Omitted	C1b, 1922	3/ 1921	1	---	---	---	---	---
RE5b Red mark inside red R indicium	---	3/ 1921	---	1	09/05/1921	----	---	---

* Canal Zone overprints included in RE1 and RE2 totals without differentiating between the two different CZ surcharges: (CZ total).

--- no sale recorded or no price from a public sale.

G = prices from Gibbs Sale, May 21, 2015, Robert A. Siegel. **P** = Plass Sale July 10, 1998, Ivy, Shreve & Mader. Prices for Canal Zone overprinted envelopes not included.

** Previous to this study both issues, RE1 and RE5, were thought to be the same issue. Mint envelopes were very difficult to find until 2013 when a single lot consisting of 15 **RE1** and 16 **RE2** mint envelopes was sold first at a HR Harmer auction and then individually on the secondary (eBay) market.

THAMESPEX 2016 Stamp Show Report

The THAMESPEX 2016 Stamp Show, a non-WSP event organized by The Thames Stamp Club, was held on Sunday, October 16, 2016 in Waterford, CT. The show commemorated the 25th anniversary of the 1st Tomahawk Cruise Missile launched by the USS *Louisville* submarine SSN 724 on January 19, 1991. This small, well-attended, one-day stamp show featured a dealer bourse and judged philatelic exhibits. CZSG members Alan Bentz, Larry Fillion, and Mike Drabik entered exhibits. In the Non-Competitive class Alan Bentz entered "U.S. 856 – U.S. Panama Canal Issue of 1939" and "Canal Zone Sea Post & Paquebot Cancels," and in the Single-Frame Open Competition entered "Charles W. Morgan's 38th Voyage," which was given a Vermeil award. Also in the Single-

Frame Open Competition Larry Fillion entered an exhibit titled "The United Nations 1972 World Health Day Souvenir Card," which was awarded a Vermeil. In the Multi-Frame Open Competition Mike Drabik entered "Canal Zone Golden Anniversary Air Mail Stamps," which received a Gold award and the Grand Award for the show.

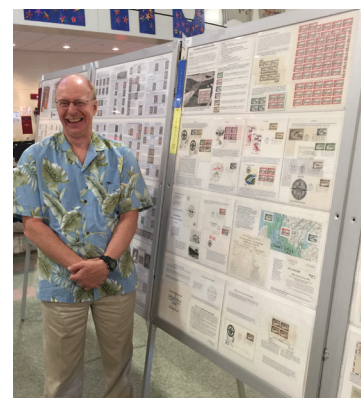


Fig. 1 Mike Drabik at his exhibit

Auctions by Jim Crumpacker

The third calendar quarter of 2016, July 1-Sept. 30, represented typical results for auctions of Canal Zone philately; no big offerings and scattered, spotty quality.

Those panes of CZ 4-8 mentioned by me in the previous *CZP* were, it turns out, purchased by a major retailer and have been broken up for sale. Caveat emptor....

Entered below are a double handful of the most interesting results from this quarter. The winning "hammer plus commission" amount is presented first; the other value, in parentheses, is from the *2016 Scott Catalogue*.

- 1, strip of 3, one is PANAMA 15mm long var. (CZSG 1.1b), tiny tears in rt. 2 stamps o/w F+ on F cover La Boca 7/3/04 to Colon \$748 (\$1300) R.A. Siegel
- 3, TG, H, F+ \$196 (\$400) Harmer-Schau
- 7, OG, H, VF+ \$161 (\$150) Regency-Superior
- 10b, L of CANAL sideways, OG, H, VF \$2006 (\$2500) Kelleher
- 14b, CANAL ZONE inverted, OG, H, F, type B "8," \$561 (\$450) Kelleher
- 15, OG, HR, VF \$863 (\$2000) Harmer-Schau
- 47, OG, HR, barely F \$863 (\$2750) Rumsey
- 84a, CANAL only, OG, H, VF+ w/ top selvage \$2760 (\$2250) R.A. Siegel
- 84b, ZONE CANAL, OG, H, SUP \$489 (\$475) R.A. Siegel
- 84b, ZONE CANAL, OG, H, VF+ \$374 (\$475) R.A. Siegel

The names and addresses of the firms selling these lots during the quarter are:

Harmer-Schau Auction Galleries 1333 N. McDowell Blvd., Ste. B Petaluma, CA 94954	Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions 47 Kearny St. San Francisco, CA 94108
Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions 4 Finance Dr., Ste. 100 Danbury, CT 06810	Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries 60 E. 56th St. New York, NY 10022
Regency-Superior 229 N. Euclid Ave. St. Louis, MO 63108	

2017 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers by Jim Crumpacker

Many changes occurred in the 2017 catalogue compared with the 2016 issue, but few were basic price changes. The "wrong fonts" and new listings for "on cover" issues are paramount; nearly all the sets have the same value as in 2016.

Scott CZ 12 var., PANAAM at right, gained a lower case "f" and is therefore 12f, not just PANAAM. All the "wrong fonts" have a price or listing, including the J18-J20 Dues.

Each of Scott CZ 141-151 and other later regular issues or commemoratives now have an "on cover" price, sometimes for an esoteric usage, ditto many post-1961 Air Mails.

Auction results led to about three times as many price decline entries over advances, but there were few serious auctions during the reporting period.

The editors and staff at Scott, plus the contributors, did an outstanding job with this 2017 issue. They deserve CZSG credit for their hard work and the betterment of knowledge of our collections.

Noted here are examples of some of the changes and additions.

Scott No.	2016	2017
15a, PANAMA reading down and up, OG	\$6750.00	\$6000.00
23i, CANAL double, OG	5000.00	6250.00
24d, CANAL only, OG	5500.00	7000.00
60a, CANAL double, OG	2250.00	2000.00
97a, pair, one w/o ovpt, OG	2750.00	2500.00
144, on cover	not listed	8.00
164a, tagged, on cover	not listed	150.00
J11C, used	10.00	5.00
O8, used	600.00	550.00
UX1b, mint entire	2750.00	2500.00
UX13a, surcharge inverted at bottom left, mint entire	not listed	750.00

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Study Group News

President's Report

David Zemer

sosahill@hotmail.com

ARIPEX 2017

The CZSG will be a participating society at the ARIPEX show to be held in Mesa, AZ in February 2017. We will have a table on the floor for all three days of the show, will hold a membership meeting on Saturday, Feb. 18 from 11 AM to 12:30 PM (check program for location and confirmation of the date), and will have a dinner on Friday, Feb. 17 at the Pier de Orleans Restaurant, a very short walk north of the Marriott Hotel. The restaurant website has the menu from which we will order at www.pierdeorleans.com.

New "Best Canal Zone Exhibit" Award

A new CZSG-sponsored award will be presented for the first time at ARIPEX 2017.

This award is only given during CZSG Annual National Meetings or other meetings approved by the CZSG Board of Directors.

The exhibition jury can only give the award if there are at least three Canal Zone multi-frame or one-frame exhibits and the winning exhibit must receive a Vermeil or better award in the open competition.

John Wynns has donated a Harbour Lights Limited Edition copy of the Gatun Lighthouse which will be awarded to the exhibit, regardless of the number of frames, that the judges believe is the best Canal Zone Exhibit.

As of early December there are seven Canal Zone-related exhibits registered at AIRPEX with the possibility of one or two latecomers so enjoy yourselves and come and see some very interesting material that you may only have read about in the past.

Congratulations to Jerry Eller for his three-frame Canal Zone Meter Mail exhibit which was awarded a Vermeil at FLOREX, December 5, 2016, a solid jump up from the Silver medal that it earned just nine months earlier at Sarasota 2016. He is working on improving it with covers using meter mail to foreign countries. If you have any such Canal Zone meter mail or know of any, please contact Jerry at jneller@mindspring.com.

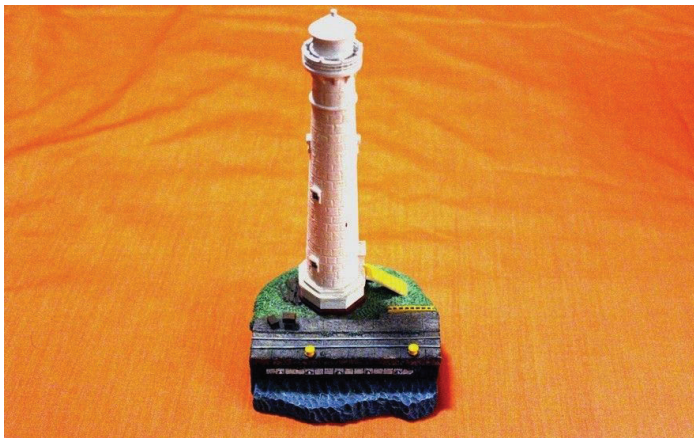


Fig. 1 Gatun Lighthouse

Upcoming CZSG Meetings

As a Participating Society in National Meetings

ARIPEX 2017, Feb 17-19, 2017, Mesa, AZ

Regional Meetings

Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition 2017,
Sarasota, FL Feb 3-5, 2017

AmeriStamp Expo, Reno, NV, March 3-5, 2017

WESTPEX 2017, San Francisco, CA, April 28-30, 2017

As a Participating Society in Future National Meetings

Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition 2018, Sarasota, FL

WESTPEX 2020, San Francisco, CA, April 24-26, 2020

Announcement – CZSG Dinner at ARIPEX 2017

There will be a CZSG dinner (Dutch treat) at ARIPEX 2017 in Mesa, AZ at 7 PM on Friday Feb. 17, 2017 at the Pier de Orleans Restaurant which is just north of the Marriott Hotel. Members should contact John Wynns (jwynns96@cox.net) if they plan to attend so he will have a good idea of the number of members who will attend.

Capt. Julius Grigore Jr.

Capt. Julius Grigore Jr. died on August 1, 2016. He was 94 years old and lived in Venice, Florida, at the time of his death. He retired from the US Navy, was a veteran of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, as well as a recognized authority of the *Surcouf* submarine disaster. He was buried at Sarasota National Cemetery with full Military Honors. He is survived by his daughter Wren, who was a great support to him for many years.

Julius collected material from Pan American World Airways, SCADTA and affiliated airlines, and the Canal Zone. Julius had written a number of books and monographs about Panama. Some of the aerophilatelic books he wrote include: *The Air Mail History of the Canal Zone and Panama, 1918-1941*; *The Aerophilately of the U.S. Army's First Pan American Good Will Flight*; NYRBA's (*New York, Rio & Buenos Aires Airlines*) *Triple Crash and Outlaw Flight Covers and its Postal Markings*; and *First Airplane Flight Over Panama Canal Zone 1913*. He was also a most willing provider of information and photos for writing projects that were undertaken by others.

Capt. Grigore was a 1946 graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York, but sailed as a midshipman in the Pacific war zone aboard a transport ship during his junior year, helping in the evacuation of wounded from New Guinea and the Solomon Islands to Australia. It was during this duty that his ship stopped at Cristobal and Panama captured his heart. Promising himself to return someday, he accomplished his goal in 1964 when he went to work for the Industrial Division of the Panama Canal Company as Assistant Chief of the Division, a position he held until his retirement.

[This report of Capt. Grigore's passing is based on material provided by Ken Sanford, which used an item written by Louie Celerier and published in the *Panama Canal Spillway*.]

Secretary's Report

Mike Drabik

P.O. Box 281

Bolton, MA 01740-0281

czsgsecretary@gmail.com

As 2016 is almost over and we will soon begin another year, I would like you to keep a look out for the 2017 CZSG Membership Dues Request notice I will be mailing to each of you in the first quarter of the new year. It would be very helpful if everyone would send in their 2017 CZSG membership payment as soon as the dues request mailing is received. This will avoid the extra effort and expense of sending out second dues request notices and making follow-up phone calls. I would be happy to receive your 2017 CZSG dues payment of \$12, \$24, \$35 or more before I send out the 2017 dues request notices. Payments for 2017 and for future years in advance can be sent to my address through the US Mail or sent to me using PayPal with payment sent to CZSGsecretary@gmail.com. (Note if using PayPal please include an extra \$1.00 for US memberships and \$2.00 for International memberships to cover PayPal fees.)

My Secretary's report for the fourth quarter of 2016 is as follows:

As of December 11, 2016 the Canal Zone Study Group has 532 members.

Please join me in welcoming our newest CZSG member: Philmore Smith, CZSG #2805.

No members have changed their address and thankfully I do not have any members to report who have left the CZSG.

I would like you to join with me in offering a sincere thank you to the 90 Contributing CZSG members and 84 Sustaining CZSG members who provided our organization with additional financial support in 2016 through their annual dues payments that were at amounts above the basic regular membership level. These Contributing and Sustaining members are listed below so we can give them the recognition for making the decision to generously support and invest in the long-term future of our organization.

2016 Contributing CZSG members (dues \$24 or more):

Dr. Stevan Adler
Allen Alexander
E. David Allen
Frank Bachenheimer
John Backo
Ted Bailey
Rufus Barnes
John Beale, Jr.
Marc Bedrin
Torsten Beyer
David Borghi
Robert Bridges
Stanley Broffman
Douglas Brunell
James Byrne
George Campbell
Ken Carstens
John Chase
James Collins
Ron Couchot
Ray Coughlin
John Drow
Attorney David Durbin
Dr. Michael Ellman
Dennis Felton
Larry Fillion
Jeffrey Forsyth

Morgan French
Alvin Friedman
Gary Ganske
Col. Pascual Goicoechea
Stephen Goodman
Charles Grassman
J. Grossett
Gary Haaf
John Hankin, Sr.
John Hartup, Jr.
Peter Hood
Lee Hunt
Jon Hussey
Joseph Kane
Miroslav Kotek
Prof. David Kurtz
Michael Leszcz
Albert Little
Arnold Lunsford
Michael Lupienski
Thomas Marsella
Dennis McDowell
Raymond McKinley, Jr.
Attorney Charles Meroni, Jr.
Scott Miner
James Mongeon, Esq.
Marie Moodie
Stanley Moskowitz
Leonard Nadybal
Joseph Napp

Mary Nelson
John Nita
Michael Parrish
Vicente Pascual Landa
George Pollock, Jr.
Bob Radley
Anita Roeckel
Thomas Russell
Tom Sandquist
Thomas Scott
Professor Jack Segal
Michael Shapiro
Phil Shapiro
Steve Sherman
Fred Sill
Louis Sloss, Jr.
Dr. Carl Smith
Richard Spielberg
David St. Maurice
Eric Stas
Brian Stidwell
William Strauss
Kunihiko Tamura
R. William Thomas
Ronald Truffa
Gaylord Warren
Bob Watson
Lawrence Weinstock
Susan Whitehead
Thomas Williams

George Young
Richard Yudin
John Zawaski, Jr.

2016 Sustaining CZSG members (dues \$35 or more):

Paul Ammons
Dr. Ernesto Arosemena
Robert Banas
Richard Bates, Jr.
John Beall
Michael Beck
Richard Bendix, Jr.
Joseph Berlin
David Boich
Thomas Brougham
Eugene Bunnell
Robert Cassibry
Craig Chartrand
Joseph Chervenak
Anthony Chipaloski
Christopher Christensen
Dr. George Cohen
Jerry Craig
James Crumpacker
Peter Cussen, Jr.
Thomas Defrank
William Derr, Ph. D.
Chris DeVoe

Dr. Donald Dolan, Jr.
E. Otis Dyer, Jr.
J. Kenyon Eagon
Donald Erlenkotter
Robert Fabian
Dr. Michael Feinstein
Desmond Fitzgerald
David Fredericks
Cpt. Julius Grigore, Jr.
Max Hanna
Bruce Heald
Charles Heberer
Bruce Hecht
Eric Hook
John Huffman
Joseph Irwin
Armand Johnson, Jr.
Shelton Johnson
William Keepers
Thomas Kurtz
Richard Ludden
Harry Marshall, Jr.
James Matson
William Matthews
Evan Matthews
John Mickey
Frederick Miller, Jr.
Robert Monok
John Morrison
Richard Murphy
Wayne Myers

Jose NG Lee
Theodore Papenfuss
Bill Peters
Edmund Price
LTC (Ret.) Ronald Rada
William Raffel
Sam Raguso, Jr.
Wallace Reed, Jr.
Robert Sapieszko
Alexander Savakis
Frederick Schmitt
Stephen Schuett
Dr. Joseph Serota
J. Thomas Showler
LaMar Sizemore, Jr.
Col. Gary Smith, MD
Charles Soto, Jr.
Jack Streeter
Robert Stuck
James Stultz
Dr. John Stunz, Jr.
Stephen Sullivan, MD
Michael Turrini
Kirt Vener
Robert Ward
Robert Warren
Dr. Gary Weiss
Dr. Gustin Welch
Dr. Harry Wyre, Jr.
David Zemer

The CZSG needs your support to continue as a vibrant and active organization. If you have suggestions or wish to report something, please contact me, our Editor Dick Bates, or other CZSG Officers or Directors. Let's all make a New Year's resolution to invite and recruit others to join the CZSG!

Best wishes for Happy Holidays and New Year to everyone.

Cristobal, CZ Paper Registry Exchange Labels - An Update by George R. Campbell

It is perhaps axiomatic that, as soon as an article is published on a survey or census of philatelic items, the information becomes obsolete. This occurs because such articles serve to stimulate collectors to examine their holdings for similar material. Their reports thereby add to the overall body of knowledge.

This brief report updates the information on the Cristobal Registry Exchange paper labels that appeared in the Fourth Quarter, 2011 *Canal Zone Philatelist* (p. 37, 40-41). At that time, a total of 46 labels were recorded, including 9 "CZ Type I" labels (handstamped "CRISTOBAL P.O.") and 37 "CZ Type II" labels (printed "CRISTOBAL, C.Z."). Note that the *Scott Specialized U.S. Catalogue* identifies "CZ Type I" as FX-CZ2 and "CZ Type II" as FX-CZ1. Since that time, many additional labels have been reported, such that there are now a total of 78 labels known, including 13 "CZ Type I" and 65 "CZ Type II." We have periodically shared this information with representatives of the United States Stamp Society who, in turn, have communicated the data to the *Scott Catalogue* editors for annual updating of the Registry Exchange label section.

If anyone wishes to receive an updated copy of the table of Cristobal Registry Exchange paper labels by return email, please communicate your requests to the author at campgs@optonline.net. Also, please send any reports of new discoveries to the same address. Scans are appreciated.

Discovery of Missing C in CANAL on Scott No. 22 by George R. Campbell

The First Quarter 2016 *CZP* reported and illustrated an example of Scott No. 22 – the 1 cent Hamilton Bank Note Issue – with a lightly printed “C” in the CANAL ZONE overprint. The stamp was used on a post card. Like other new discoveries, this report sent me into my holdings in search of a similar item. What I found instead was a 1 cent Hamilton with the “C” entirely missing, such that the overprint reads “ANAL ZONE.” Other CZ stamps have had this variety reported, but it is usually the result of a shifted overprint – not the case here. This variety is currently unlisted in the latest *Check List*, although other incompletely printed overprints, such as “ANA ZONE” and “CANAL ONE” are listed.

The new discovery is illustrated below (Fig. 1). It appears on the view side of a picture post card (Maduro 166C). The variety is paired with a 1 cent Type I of the American Bank Note issue, paying the 2 cent overseas rate for post cards. The card was addressed to Austria and cancelled at Pedro Miguel, CZ, April 6, 1910. The Hamilton variety displays a 6 ¾ mm spacing between “ANAL” and “ZONE,” characteristic of the later printings of this issue. Measurements of “ANAL” (10 mm) and “ZONE” (9 ½ mm) are consistent with the other characteristics of the overprint.

The author would appreciate reports of additional copies of the “ANAL” variety. Please communicate this information to the Editor or to the author at campgs@optonline.net.



Fig. 1 Missing “C” in CANAL on Scott No. 22

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Update on Initial Army Censorship of Mail in the Canal Zone by Paul Ammons

The Army began censoring mail from its soldiers in the Canal Zone no earlier than December 16, 1941 using what has been unofficially referred to as the Army Provisional Censor (APC) hand stamp, Figure 1. While the censor numbers were centrally assigned at the unit level and the design of the handstamp may have been generally described, the handstamps are believed to have been locally produced. The boxed rectangle measuring approximately 40mm x 19mm is actually made up of four lines that do not always join at the corners. So far, the earliest documented use is on a December 19, 1941 cover from Camp Paraiso. [1,2]

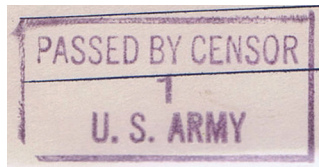


Fig. 1
Army Provisional
Censor hand stamp

The APC was superseded by the All Army standard unit censor hand stamp (AASC), Figure 2, on a unit-by-unit basis as early as mid-January 1942. This handstamp is unofficially often referred to as the boxed oval, racetrack, or tank tracks censor handstamp. With only a few exceptions, the conversion was complete by the end of March 1942.

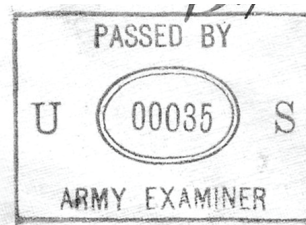


Fig. 2
All Army standard unit
censor hand stamp

I started a listing of APC covers in 1995 [3] and currently have information on 837 examples. I also have a listing of AASC covers with emphasis on those censored in 1942 and have information on 1240 examples, just under 500 of which were postmarked by CZ post offices before they were taken over by the Army Post Office (APO) system on July 1, 1942.

The unit-by-unit transition between APC and AASC can only be determined through a reconstruction of the early 1942 Army “order of battle.” The APC numbers were assigned to units as small as infantry companies, artillery batteries, and aircraft squadrons and the AASC numbers were assigned to units no smaller than infantry battalions, artillery regiments, and aircraft groups.

If you have not already done so, I would appreciate receiving scans, or complete documentation, of any APC covers and any AASC covers postmarked prior to May 1942 you may have in your collection. I may be reached via email at ammons.paul@gmail.com, by snail mail at P.O. Box 1311, College Station, TX 77841-1311, or via the Editor.

References:

- [1] Ammons, Paul, “Initial World War II Army Censorship of Mail in the Canal Zone,” *CZP* 50(1): 18-20 (2014)
- [2] Helbock, Richard W., Chapter 7, “Panama Canal Zone, 1941-1942” in *Passed by Army Censor*, Jack E. Lee Publishing, 2006, pp. 82-84
- [3] Ammons, Paul, “Provisional Army Censor Hand Stamp Survey,” *Isthmian Collectors Club (ICC) Journal*, January 1996, pp. 96-02 to 96-05.